

Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD)

NewsletterSummer 2023

It is summer 2023! It has been and continues to be a very wild and changing winter, spring (if there was one) and summer. We are very wet and then very dry. We have had storms and no storms, winds and no winds, and hot and even hotter. The water levels have been very high this spring even threatening the dam in Amery to now some very low levels making harvesting at least near your docks very difficult. Please remember, the flowage has a watershed area of 111,000 acres which is far greater than any other body of water around us. This area starts north of Turtle Lake and moves through White Ash Lake on its way to us. There are cities, golf courses, swamps, farms, forests along the way so we get most everything. This makes the Apple River Flowage (lake) very unique. We hope you will appreciate the challenges we face.

Does ARPRD hold meetings?...Yes!

1. The Board of Commissioners held a meeting on April 22, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Room of the Amery City Hall. We really discussed the upcoming year and all we needed to do to be ready for the summer season.
2. The Board of Commissioners held a meeting on July 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Room of the Amery City Hall. The meeting centered on an update of all the Districts operations. It also approved a proposed budget for 2024 which will be brought to the Annual Meeting as well as being posted on our website arprd.org
3. The Annual Meeting of the ARPRD will be held on Saturday August 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Room of the Amery City Hall...all tax paying residents of the district are invited.

What is involved in our District? The Town of Lincoln and the east side of the City of Amery!

We hope you understand what we own and the size of our District which includes the following:

1. One Aquarius Weed Harvester (7' cutter head) purchased in the summer of 2012 and is still operating (mainly on the north end...the area north of the highway 46 bridge). It goes 3-4 days per week depending on the weed conditions. This equipment also includes a conveyor and a dump truck which hold about 10 yards or 6,000 pounds of wet weeds. All of these items are paid for in full. They are continually maintained by a super harvesting team
 2. One Inland Weed Harvester (10' cutter bar) purchased in 2020 and is used exclusively on the South end (Highway 46 bridge and south into Amery Birch Street landing). This machine is excellent and service by the Inland Company at no costs to us...Thank you Inland!!! They are treating us in a most excellent manner. Along with the harvester we have a large transport trailer which carries the harvester and also functions as the trailer to carry harvested weeds which weigh about 12,000 pounds (wet). We also own a truck which is required to pull this heavy trailer (truck is paid for).The loan for the Inland Harvester will be paid in 2028.
 3. We hire a crew of about 6 who serve as harvester operators. They are overseen by Dave Schleusner who does everything.
 4. We hire a crew of 2-3 people who serve as boat inspectors at the Lincoln Landing. They must work for a minimum of 200 hours
 5. Our payroll is managed by Carlson SV in Amery
- Hopefully this gives you a view of the ARPRD operations.

Do we have a tribute this year?...Yes

We want to say “Thank you” to Angie Johnson who has served as our Secretary for 12 years. She has been very insistent that we follow all Wisconsin meeting laws. She keeps us all up to date on all the residents of the ARPRD that are identified by Polk County. Many thanks are due Angie!!!

What is happening with the Aquatic Plant Management Planning?

This is a plan required by the WI DNR for aquatic plant management. It is a plan as to how the district plans to manage the aquatic plants in their lake or flowage. If we do not have an updated (every five years) plan we will not be eligible for any grants from the DNR. We made the first plan in 2012, a second one in 2017 and now this third one in 2022 which is carrying over into 2023. The plan comes at a cost this year as follows:

Aquatic Plant Survey (required) \$7,900 (conducted in May and June of 2022)

APM Updating Consulting \$6,230

Travel, Training ,Volunteers \$ 480

Total Cost.....\$14,610.00

State of WI DNR pays...67% or \$9,788.70 ARPRD pays...\$4,831.30...Volunteers value= \$480 as a result ARPRD will pay \$4,341.30

We are following a schedule as follows:

Application September 2, 2021

Plant Survey May and June 2023 Matt Berg

Develop background information Cheryl Clemens March-May 2023

APM Committee Meetings (Volunteers) June and July 2023

Draft plan for Committee review July 21, 2023

Comments back on plan to Cheryl July 31, 2023

Final Draft available for residents review August 11, 2023

ARPRD ANNUAL Meeting August 19, 2023

Public comments due Cheryl Sept. 11,2023

Finalize for DNR review Sept. 15., 2023

DNR Review and decision Nov. 15, 2023

Please note the survey was long very detailed....some 480 different point in out 640 acre lake.

The results show we are making little progress on reducing the Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) an invasive species which you all see in early May and June and then dies naturally by July 1. The harvesters can go any place in the lake to get it but our shallow areas make it difficult. This weed is still extensive across the entire flowage. When this weed dies we get another called Coontail which is also in about 87% of the lake. The harvesters battle this one for the rest of the summer. In 2017 we had 37 native species in 2022 we had 42 native species growing. This is not a bad sign and our harvesting controls much of the growth which hinders boating and other recreational uses as well as fishing. Plant growth is essential for a healthy lake. Our harvesting serves to allow for plant growth but not to the point that one cannot enjoy the lake. The following chart shows the valuable work the harvesting operation has accomplished since August of 2012. We have shown this chart every year in the newsletter...hope it helps you get the big picture of our situation:

Harvesting Results

Year	Began	Ended	Days	Loads	Weights
2012	August 10	Sept. 14	22	112	501,750
2013	May 28	August 29	67	566	2,535,680
2014	May 28	Sept. 5	63	513	2,302,857
2015	May 8	Sept. 9	68	500	2,244,500
2016	May 11	Sept. 9	75	564	2,531,796
2017	May 15	Sept. 20	80	368	1,656,000
2018	May 11	Sept. 25		351	1,579,500
2019	May 17	Sept. 21		346	1,557,000
2020	May 28	Sept. 18		388	1,746,000

Second Harvester begins... Loads are now 18,000 pounds (wet) 6,000 north 12,000 south

2021	May 6	Sept 24			6,919,086
2022	May 20	Sept. 20		312	3,792,000
2023	May 20		as of July 12	198	2,052,000

If all those weights remained in the bottom of the lake....what a difference we would see in the flowage...Thank you to the harvesting crew. Dave Schleusner is a super asset to ARPRD and deserves our highest thanks and appreciation

What has been the record of the Clean Boats/Clean Water projects we have conducted and hopefully hindering more invasive species?

This effort to keep out any more invasive species has been ongoing with ARPRD since 2013. We have cooperated with the Amery Lakes District until the past 2 years when they could no longer help us have trained boat inspectors. Thanks to Isaac Wieczorek and Erin Schleusner who have filled in and maintained this project. The following chart reveals our efforts in trying to keep the Apple River Flowage (our 640 acre lake) clean. This project has been taking place at the Lincoln Landing.

Year	Boats Inspected	Hours Spent
2013	65	64
2014	62	92
2015	66	144
2016	143	227
2017	145	204
2018	144	206
2019	167	203
2020	173	214
2021	158	202
2022	137	242

2023 underway

Please note the DNR grant requires a minimum of 200 hours of inspections. We began getting grants in 2016 and it has become an annual projects. Boat inspectors must be trained and they try to select hours of inspections when there is the most boat traffic at the Lincoln Landing.

What may be our next effort to prevent invasive species?

“The Installation of Decontamination Stations at the Lincoln Landing and the Birch Street Landing in the City of Amery”.

Please stay with us as this will develop for 2024. It will involve a large sign and then a bleach solution which boats landing and going from us must use to kill Zebra Mussels and other invasive weeds. We are being surrounded with lakes that have the issues like Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra Mussels which are all very bad.

The ARPRD Board of Commissioners

Roland Peterson Chair...Newsletter writer

Billie Jo Schleusner Treasurer

Angie Johnson Secretary

Eric Elkin City of Amery Representative

Denise L’Allier Pray Polk County Representative

Hopefully you are now informed of the ARPRD activities for 2023